



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent No. 6297721  
Issue Date: October 2, 2001  
Application No. 08977407  
Filed: November 24, 1997  
Attorney Docket No.

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:DECISION GRANTING PETITION  
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)

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This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed December 6, 2006, under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 3.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is GRANTED.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of December 6, 2006. This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in an Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.